

Buy American Act, which has resulted in billions of taxpayer dollars being sent to overseas companies.

Now, in working with a group of Members who is dedicated to shoring up the rules that require the government to purchase domestically, I've been drafting legislation which will seek to address the growing number of loopholes that allow companies to take taxpayer dollars overseas. My legislation would begin to reorient and to build up our domestic manufacturing and construction base, which has been hit so hard in recent times, by using taxpayer dollars to do it. Taxpayer dollars are already going to buy, too often, overseas products.

We don't seek to interfere with the decisions of private businesses. We do, however, seek to make it clear that the U.S. Government values American-made products and that taxpayer money shouldn't be shipped off to a foreign country to contribute to the bottom line of that foreign company when American businesses can produce the same high-quality goods right here at home.

I believe strongly in international trade, and I accept the necessity of an interdependent global economy. However, what we are discussing here is not just economics, and it is not simply a race to find the lowest price. It is about national security. It is especially about national security with regard to the Department of Defense. A stable supply of domestically manufactured defense products is imperative to this Nation's long-term safety and common defense. We have a real opportunity here to both reinvigorate our domestic capacity for manufacturing while enhancing our national security.

With that in mind, I, along with a group of Members, am crafting legislation which will seek to assist firms that are victims of the loopholes in our current Buy American and Buy America regime. This legislation will target assistance to suppliers that manufacture or that could manufacture products that Federal agencies have deemed nonavailable from domestic sources, which is a misleading designation. Under current law, an agency can determine that an item is nonavailable in sufficient quantity or quality in the United States and then can just waive the Buy American restrictions. Therefore, the assistance in my legislation will target firms that make these nonavailable items right here in the United States but that might not have the capacity right now to meet the agency's needs.

These firms will use this assistance to increase their capacity so that they can be the suppliers to the American Government rather than ceding that ground to foreign firms. It will also assist suppliers that manufacture an item which is currently being bought through the Buy American provisions. If that firm is in danger of going out of business, then let's step up and help it stay in business because the only place

that we are left to go after that firm folds is to a foreign supplier.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues came to this House floor earlier tonight to talk about the major Federal tanker contract which is going to a foreign supplier—Airbus. It is just one example. It is a major example of a growing trend in defense work going overseas. We have had enough. It is time for us as a Congress to deem this unacceptable, to strengthen the Buy American provisions, and to bring our taxpayer dollars back home.

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#### THE LEANES FAMILY—MILITARY FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of representing many of this Nation's wonderful military families. The Third District of North Carolina is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Every year, the National Military Family Association honors the top families from each of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One family is chosen from these seven as the National Military Family of the Year.

This year I am very pleased to say that the Leanes family from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, is not only this year's Marine Corps Family of the Year but also the National Military Family of the Year.

Sergeant Dennis Leanes and his wife, Kristy, are dedicated and committed to serving this country as well as their community. The Leanes' six children, Jordan, Syvannah, Bethany, Marissa, Emily and Karianne are following their parents' example in giving back to their community as well.

In 2006, after 8 years of working in a civilian job, Dennis' love for his country led him to re-enlist in the Marine Corps, take a pay cut and uproot his family. The Leanes embraced life in the Camp Lejeune community and incorporated volunteering in their daily lives.

Dennis and Kristy run Scout meetings, coach sports teams, lead family readiness meetings and help their neighbors in any way they can. Kristy also dedicates a major portion of her time to home schooling all six of the Leanes children.

Jordan fixes bicycles and donates them to charity. Syvannah organized a wonderful "Wounded Warrior Thank You" project at church. Bethany volunteers her babysitting services for moms whose husbands are deployed. The three younger children, Marissa,

Emily and Karianne, help out by baking cookies and bread for various projects and are quick to share with their neighbors.

Dennis and Kristy have taught their children by example what it means to be brave and strong. They have taught their children the importance of volunteering and what it means to serve your neighbor and community. Our military families need to know that the Members of Congress and the people of this Nation appreciate them and all they do for our country.

May God continue to bless our troops, their families, and this great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FINANCIAL REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I could not resist coming to you and speaking to you about my experience when we passed the financial reform bill last Friday.

You know, Wall Street has provided an unparalleled life-style for Americans. The speculation and the brilliance and genius of futures and credit default swaps and derivatives have provided us with a life-style where every bride can have a diamond ring and every handsome groom can have a gold band. We can have two cars, one a gas-guzzling SUV, lobster dinners, McMansions, Madam Speaker, with six bedrooms, five fireplaces, 4½ baths but, of course, not enough closet space for all the shoes and designer clothes that we have.

Last fall, all of this balloon spending came to a crash. And it was amazing to me, Madam Speaker, that when we tried to rein in Wall Street and some of the speculation, that there was tremendous resistance from both parties with developing a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, putting together an assessment from all of these "too big to fail" companies to pay for an orderly dissolution of the mess that they created. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, it was amazing to me.

This bill that we passed, for those who have asked the question, what is government for, this bill demonstrates better than anything that I have seen what the purpose of government is, and that is to regulate unfettered greed and avarice that can bring our country and, indeed, the world to financial brink.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.